



AHOY - The Newsletter of Watermouth Yacht Club

November 2012

Berrynarbor, Ilfracombe, North Devon, EX34 9SJ
51° 13' N 04° 05' W

The only Club Cruise this year was to Lundy in July



From left to right: unknown. Chablis Chaser Cloudy Bay Unknown Sorry Shark
Steve Baron . Geof Pierce Trevor & Jane Simon & Sue

Commodore's Column

Outside was the ship's rush to the wind's hurry,
A resonant wire-hum from every rope,
The broadening bow-wash in a fiery flurry,
The leaning masts in their majestic slope.....

John Masefield

The above quotation I am sure must remind some of our hardy sailing members of any trips they were able to make this season. This was in some ways rather disappointing due to the weather.

However, as regards the club generally, and bearing in mind the economic climate, it has been a very successful season. The annual Easter Boat Race was well supported and enjoyed by all who took part, including the senior members. The Sunday luncheons were, as always, a tremendous success, thanks to the hard work of our ladies and other helpers; the Bar, thanks to Keith was as popular as ever, and the clubhouse events well attended, particularly the talk we received from Andy Munday on the occasion of the club's Ruby Doo!

The older one gets, the faster time seems to go, and it is hard to accept that 2012 is coming to an end in less than two months. I note that for the last two years I have finished by noting that the next year will be more favourable for all aspects of boating, that hope was ill founded so this year I shall say nothing as regards next season.

And finally I am deeply saddened to report on the death of John Kempson, who as our co opted Treasurer, served the Club so well for many years. On behalf of all club members our thoughts will be with his widow Margaret. His obituary appears below.

John

John Walter Munn Kempson

10th November 1933 to 16th September 2012



John Kempson who died on 16th September aged 78 became Treasurer of the Watermouth Yacht Club for 10 years following his retirement from Portland Street Post Office.

John had a very varied life starting with becoming a Choir boy at the age of 11 at Bristol Cathedral. He was called up for National Service with the Royal Marines. After basic training he completed the Commando Course and earned his much coveted green beret. Subsequently he was stationed with 40 Commando RM in Malta and Egypt during the Suez crisis. After National Service he joined an Insurance Company in Bristol and was posted to Taunton where he became chairman of the Young Conservatives. He then became an Insurance Broker in Bridgwater and became Chairman of the local Chamber of Commerce.

He maintained his links with the Royal Marines throughout his life firstly with the RMFVR in Bristol and latterly with the Royal Marines Association Branch in North Devon. Once a Marine always a Marine

He decided to have a change of life and he moved to North Devon and bought Portland Street Post Office where he became Chairman of the Federation of Sub-Postmasters. He became a Cub and Scout Leader and enjoyed taking the boys out for map reading and adventure. His love of the outdoors led him to the delights of Exmoor and surrounding countryside. He was the founder of the Bicycle Hire on the Tarka Trail and enjoyed running this both before and after his retirement. With his wife, Margaret, he enjoyed many happy times with members of the Watermouth Yacht Club but would confess that he still preferred boats in the bath!

Margaret Kempson.

Maintenance Report

Another glorious (when I am day dreaming) boating season has come to a close and the Club is winding down ready for the winter. I have carried out the usual tasks such as valley and gutter cleaning and will cover the patio furniture when it is dry enough, apart from this there is nothing much to report. There are no big projects planned for this winter so I can have a rest.

Sue and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Simon

Membership Subscriptions 2013

The committee has reviewed subscriptions for 2013 and reluctantly decided that a small increase in the basic subscription will be necessary. Membership will rise by £2 to £60 while the mooring surcharge will remain at £20 for those who wish to use the club's deep water moorings.

With best wishes for Christmas and let's hope that next year is one to remember for all the right reasons!

Steve Barron (Hon.Treasurer)

Copperas Races

What can I say about the 2012 series?

Every race was cancelled due to poor weather, except the last one on 22 September when the weather came good and just about every yacht in Watermouth took part.



It was a fantastic sail in perfect conditions, showing what it can be like in the Bristol Channel.

Wayfarer and Chaser were fighting for the lead as usual with Richard & Carol in Allsort battling with Dave & Eunice in Foyle for 2nd place while Steve in Chablis was making good progress through the fleet. Trevor & Jane started well in Cloudy Bay but on the way back seemed unsure which side of the channel was Welsh or English. Alistair in Anastasia decided once around Copperas wasn't a very long sail and continued on somewhere and hasn't finished yet. Mike Jarvis in Cello was very late to the start line, (actually, Cello was still ashore when everyone else had finished).

It was very tense at the finish, who would benefit most from cheating the tide, who would get a favourable wind shift and who would be the winner?

Then I woke up and it slowly dawned on me why it was such a gorgeous day, it was because I was on holiday on a Greek island and it was the Paxos to Corfu leg of an Ionian regatta. Well, Wales doesn't really look like that, does it?

Oh well, back to next year's tide table to find suitable dates for 2013 and hope for a somewhat better sailing season next year, it could hardly be any worse than this year, could it?

Geof Pierce

Your Clubhouse – Winter 2012 / 13

Bar - The bar will be closed for the months of December and January.

Whilst the clubhouse has to be aired, this can be done during the daytime whilst Keith, Sue or Simon are on site.

Galley - The larger freezer has now been emptied and is OFF for the winter months.

The members' foodstuffs have been transferred to the smaller freezer. Most of this has not been labelled with the owner's name. At the beginning of the next season I will be emptying this freezer also, therefore I would suggest that if there are items there you wish to keep, you either collect them or contact me please.

Moira 01271865001 or allsford388@btinternet.com.

Books- We will be continuing to sell books (they have been a nice little earner for the club).

Please may I ask for contributions and that they are in good condition.

Pictures - There will be a small number of framed photographs placed in the new loo and shower corridor.

There is not sufficient room here to print them, but perhaps in the next Ahoy.

Thank you to contributors, I am sure they will add the colour we were seeking.

Watermouth Yacht Club Annual Dinner and Dance - 2012

This was once again a chance to catch up with friends not seen for a while, enjoy a relaxed evening in the lovely environment of Ilfracombe Golf Club where the food is good and the drinks are served at Club prices.

Every year I ask the question of whether you would prefer another venue, just to ring the changes, however the answer always is that the Ilfracombe Golf Club is the preferred option.

If anyone has other ideas please let me know so that alternatives can be considered.

Moira

Award of Club Trophies for 2012

These were all presented by Moira deputising for the Commodore, as unfortunately John was unable to attend.



Pool Champion 2012

This always results in a really pleasant evening which is good for a joke or two. Each game provided an easy commentary, and although no one individual was proficient enough to white wash anyone, we enjoyed some entertaining frames of pool. As ever, it was obvious who had had a misspent youth! Our Pool champion for 2012 is **Simon Kemp**.

The Lundy Cup

This is a relatively new trophy presented by Watermouth Yacht Club. It is awarded to the Watermouth boat and skipper who attains the highest place in The Round Lundy Race organised and run annually by Ilfracombe Yacht Club. In May 2012 the weather and sea conditions were very unseasonable, (although perhaps it has become the norm – no! too depressing a thought!) and it looked like the race would have to be cancelled. Some boats were not able to make the start line, other skippers decided not to start and a number had to retire.

From IYC website:-

Of the 48 entrants; 31 did not start, 5 retired and only 12 finished.

Two Watermouth boats completed the race and of these the higher placed was **Geof Pierce with Chaser**



The Concours D'elegance - The Most Improved Boat

Having taken her away to their home last winter, we waited for the return this favourite vessel. Being an exceptionally 'pretty' and traditional boat we were not disappointed to see her again. Re-engined, completely revamped but just as pretty.

These owners have taken this vessel into their care and fortunately have decided to keep her at Watermouth harbour. With her distinctive tan sails and gaff rig, she is recognisable from afar and we do love to see her.

Robert Johnson with Tir-an-og

The Fuller Trophy - The Most Meritorious Voyage

This is always a tricky award to make. One person's meritorious voyage may not seem deserving against some of the 'voyages' undertaken by others. However, when you are not a sailor by your own choice, any voyage deserves merit and *any* and *every* trip will be significant.

In 2012, the first attempt at a trip out resulted in them being 'stuck' in Appledore with engine troubles for several days. The second trip saw them reach Newquay, followed by a not particularly friendly Port Issac and then true to form, stormbound in Padstow.

Carole Meredith and Tir-an-og



Editorial

As the Ahoy is now being delivered by email I would like to think that you print out your own copy so that you can browse through it in your 'loo !

My usual reminder for 'copy' please for the next Ahoy - Neil Johnstone

This image below is to wish all members a Happy Christmas and to remind you to visit both your boat and safety equipment over the winter

A Christmas Visit to the Moorings



Image by Amelia Johnstone